

**FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2009

Commissioners Present

Katcho Achadjian	SLO County Board of Supervisors
Penny Borenstein, M.D.	SLO County Public Health
René Bravo, M.D.	SLO County Medical Association
Julian Crocker	SLO County Office of Education
Don Dennison	Children's Services Network
Janet Murphy	Community at Large

Commissioner Absent

Carol Capito	Child Care Planning Council
Lee Collins	SLO County Social Services
Rosalinda Rodriguez	Community at Large

Staff Present

First 5 Staff: Susan Hughes, Jason Wells, Anne Tognazzini; Susan Hoffman, County Counsel.

Call to Order

Chairperson Achadjian called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Public Comment

Ron Huxley, Director with the Kinship Center for Children, introduced himself. He explained that the Kinship Center is a children's mental health clinic. They are located in Templeton, and provide mental health services for adopted children.

Due to lack of a quorum, the order of Agenda items was shifted.

Staff Report

Susan Hughes, First 5 Staff, provided information on:

- Events: Born Learning Trail dedication in Oceano (scheduled for Dec. 10th), and the Children's Oral Health Summit (for which registration will begin next week).
- Press: Tribune follow-up article on BABES and Five Cities Times-Press Recorder editorial on early literacy.
- State budget deficit (estimated at 20.7 billion) and its possible impacts on Healthy Families.
- Tobacco tax ballot initiative, which could mean a 10% drop in revenue to the counties because it does not backfill First 5 funding.
- Aggregate data from the First 5 county commissions.

There were no questions or comments from the public or the Commissioners.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of the October 28, 2009 minutes.
- Approval of an independent contractor agreement to provide legal services to the Commission for the period of January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 with Patricia Gomez, amount not to exceed \$6,000.
- Approval of the 2008-09 Outcome Evaluation Report.
- Approval to send a letter to the Plan and Provider Relations Department of Managed Health Care opposing the 50% cut in Anthem Blue Cross provider reimbursement for local physicians participating in the Healthy Families Program.

Commissioner Borenstein asked about the cost of County Counsel services prior to separation from the County. Susan Hughes explained that County Counsel's rate is \$140/hour, and she was told it would likely go up next year. Other attorney options were as high as \$300/hour. She also noted that it hasn't always been the same person providing legal services from County Counsel.

Susan Hughes also noted there were some changes to the Outcome Evaluation Report. Tom Keifer, First 5 Evaluation Consultant, covered some errata, corrections and omissions to the Draft Outcome Evaluation Report 2009.

Commissioner Crocker moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennison and passed unanimously.

Children's Health Initiative (CHI) – Age-banded premiums

Jason Wells, First 5 staff, provided background on CHI's request to have age-banded premiums, which if approved, would require Commission approval of an amendment to their contract. He reviewed CHI's contract and changes in the premium cost for children aged 0-5. He explained that age-banding would reduce the number of 0-5 children who could be covered, but noted that the number covered has never exceeded that amount. He also spoke about the impact to CHI: increased rates for ages 0-5, reduced rate for ages 6-18, and continued coverage for 30+ children who would be aging out at age 6. He also covered the objectives and outcomes in CHI's contract.

There was discussion regarding the enrollment numbers and trends.

Mr. Wells explained staff's recommendations: 1) amend current contract, to cover the increased premium rate, and 2) no increase in funding in current contract, with future funding decisions being addressed during the strategic planning process.

There was additional discussion, including regarding the legality of age-banding, with Mr. Wells noting that County Counsel has advised that age-banding would not be seen as subsidizing funding for 6-18 year-olds.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Commissioner Crocker made a motion to approve staff recommendations 1 and 2, to amend CHI's contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning 2011-2016, Mission and Guiding Principles

Chairperson Achadjian passed over this item, due to having limited time before a quorum was lost, since some Commissioners had to leave early.

Children's Oral Health Planning Update

Joel Diring and Kathy Phipps, Children's Oral Health Coordination Team members, provided a report about access to restorative dental care for children in San Luis Obispo County.

Mr. Diring noted there were two factors to consider when surveying access to restorative care: location of the children (demand) and location of the dentists (supply). He also reported that 80% of disease is in 20% of the children, specifically low income, minorities, and children with special health care needs.

He reviewed a number of statistics related to distribution of children and the distribution of dentists. He noted that although the county has 167 dentists, only 9 provide a dental home to Medi-Cal patients. He also reviewed utilization rates, and provided summaries of the current status of each region of the county.

Mr. Diring then reviewed a number of options for increasing access to restorative dental care and provided problem-based recommendations.

Chairperson Achadjian noted that he didn't want to rush a decision and asked that Community Health Centers (CHC) come back for additional discussion about the recommendation that CHC hire a pediatric dentist to provide care to children in central and south county.

Chairperson Achadjian had to leave the meeting to attend another engagement and turned over his duties to Vice-Chair Dennison. With his departure and the departure of Commissioner Crocker, there was no longer a quorum.

George Johnson and Joe Mercardante, both with CHC, spoke about CHC's interest in hiring a pediatric dentist, noting they had a specific dentist interested in coming to the county. They also explained they were definitely going to hire a dentist, but whether they hired a pediatric dentist would depend on whether they could fill the funding gap, since pediatric dentists are significantly more expensive.

There was additional discussion regarding the hiring of a pediatric dentist by CHC. It was noted that although there would be a funding gap initially, a pediatric dentist would be a break-even proposition at some point due to reimbursements.

Suzanne Russell, Clinic Director for Clinica de Tolosa, was asked about the belief that Partnership for The Children (PTC) might start a clinic in the south county. She explained that due to the scope of their Mission Statement and because the south county lacked services when the discussion began, they felt they had to keep south county in their vision. Both Ms. Russell and Barbara Nicholson, Executive Director for PTC, explained that although a south county clinic is not off the table, they would prefer to see someone else do something there, so PTC could continue to focus and grow in the north county.

George Johnston explained that on July 1 when Medi-Cal no longer covered adult dental care, CHC turned its dental focus to children. He noted that in the previous three months, they saw 228

children, representing 405 encounters, in the 0-5 age bracket alone. He added that with a pediatric dentist they could certainly see more.

Joe Mercardante also reported on CHC's changes to their organization, in regards to dental care. They specifically have sought out people who are interested in working in the community, and are training more staff to work with children. He noted they also hope to start a pilot K-3 comprehensive prevention program possibly next September in three south county schools.

During public comment, Kena Burke, CHI, asked for clarification regarding the number of San Luis Obispo County patients being seen in Santa Maria. She also mentioned the huge numbers of patients being seen by Clinica de Tolosa, which indicates that the 35 children per week "break-even" point (for salary cost) at a south county clinic should be easy to reach. Suzanne Russell, with Clinica de Tolosa, reported that from January to the end of November they had seen 4200 unique children, and approximately 70-80% of them were on Medi-Cal.

Commissioner Bravo asked whether First 5 had \$200,000 available. Susan Hughes noted that there is about \$300,000 available for emerging issues.

Vice-Chair Dennison directed staff to become engaged in the discussion regarding CHC's possible hiring of a pediatric dentist, and to report back at the January 2010 Commission Meeting with any options for First 5 participation, as well as possible recommendations.

Vice-Chair Dennison also noted that the discussion of the Commission's Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles (Item 5) was to be tabled until the January 2010 meeting.

Commissioners Comments and Announcements

There were no comments or announcements from the Commissioners.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM.

All materials referred to in these minutes are available at the First 5 SLO County office. For a more detailed account, recordings of the meeting are available by calling (805) 781-4058.

The next regular Commission meeting will be:
Wednesday, January 27, 2010, 4:00–6:30 p.m.
Dept. of Social Services, 3433 So. Higuera St., Room 115, San Luis Obispo